

# PUNCHING TACTICS DENIED BY MANTLE

## Still Sore From Pummeling by Stadium Fans, Mickey Makes Light of Incident

Special to The New York Times.

BALTIMORE, May 31—Although the left side of his face and his jaw still were sore from the pummeling he took from fans who poured onto the field at the conclusion of yesterday's double-header with the Washington Senators at Yankee Stadium, Mickey Mantle made light of the incident today.

"It was just one of those things that happen now and then," said the Yankee center fielder. "Looking back on it, I guess it was nothing to get too excited about. But I'll admit that at the time they had me a bit worried, the way they were coming at me in all directions."

Mantle indignantly denied charges made by television observers that he had let a few punches fly.

"I wouldn't think of taking a swing at a kid," he said. "I have four of my own, you know. The same goes for any other fan."

"On the other hand, you have to protect yourself in a situation like that. Sure, I warded off people with my hands, but it was more like swimming breast-stroke than punching or even straight-arming."

"They grabbed my cap and nearly put out my eye in the process. They were grabbing and clawing at my glove. I finally put my head down and bulled through the pack like a fullback."

"I guarantee I got more bruises out of it than anyone although I do remember someone going down when he banged into my shoulder. Incidentally, that was no kid. He was at least as big and as old as I am."

On days when there are big crowds at the Stadium, the Yankees henceforth plan to have the ushers and special police form a cordon to keep a clear passage to the dugout open to players leaving the field. They may even set up rope barriers, as was done in the days of Joe DiMaggio, who was a frequent target of overexuberant fans.